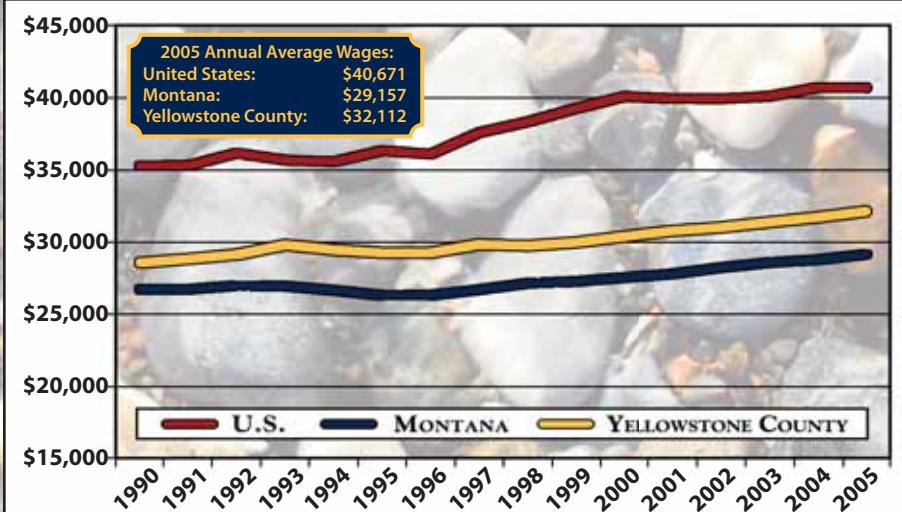


Annual Average Labor Force - Yellowstone County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2005	79,700	77,123	2,577	3.2%
2004	77,183	74,473	2,710	3.5%
2003	75,687	73,071	2,616	3.5%
2002	75,411	72,742	2,669	3.5%
2001	72,180	69,603	2,577	3.6%
2000	71,492	68,575	2,917	4.1%

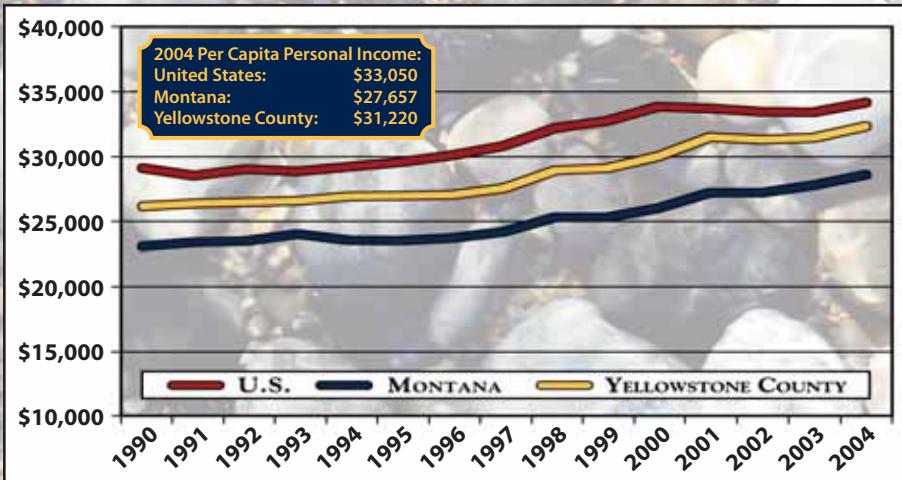
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

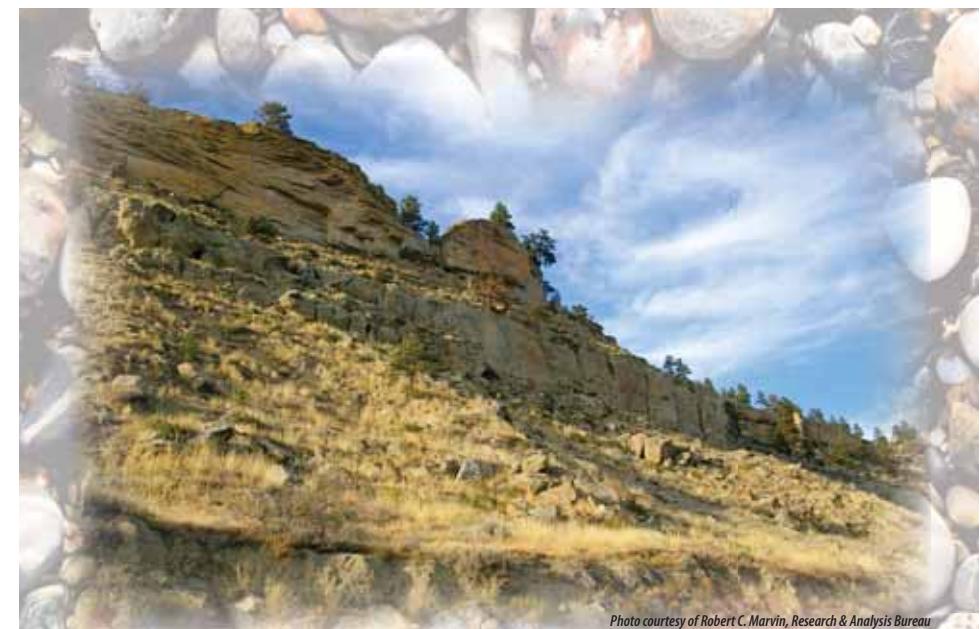


Photo courtesy of Robert C. Marvin, Research & Analysis Bureau

Demographic & Economic Information for Yellowstone County



RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry

P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59620-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638

E-mail: webmaster@mt.gov - Website: www.ourfactsyourfuture.org

Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731

E-mail: ceic@mt.gov - Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Yellowstone County is Montana's most populous county, with an estimated 136,691 residents in 2005. Billings, the county seat, is the state's largest city, with a population estimated at 98,721 in 2005.¹ In March 2006, the Billings City-County Planning Department estimated that Billings surpassed the 100,000 population milestone, putting the unofficial number at 101,182 residents. Other cities and towns in Yellowstone County include: Acton, Ballantine, Broadview, Custer, Huntley, Laurel, Pompey's Pillar, Shepard, and Worden.

Billings, the largest city in a 500 mile radius, serves as a commercial and transportation hub for the state, as well as a major center for education and medical services. Billings benefits from having a diversified economy, where oil and gas, health care, livestock, and banking play significant roles. The city boasts two colleges (MSU-Billings and Rocky Mountain College), two major hospitals, two oil refineries, and an international airport.

Health Care & Social Assistance is the number one industry subsector in Yellowstone County, employing 10,554 people in 2005. Other significant subsectors include Retail Trade (with 9,462 employees), Accommodation & Food Services (7,478), and Wholesale Trade (5,096). In 2005, the fastest growing subsectors of Yellowstone County's economy included Mining (up 13.8% from 2004), Construction (up 10.5%), Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (up 9.7%), and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 9.4%).³

¹U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates Program*

²Kemmick, Ed. "Billings reaches population milestone of 100,000," *Billings Gazette*. March 16th, 2006. www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/03/16/news/local/20-population.txt

³Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau, *Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program*

Resources for Yellowstone County

Chambers of Commerce

Billings Chamber
815 S. 27th, Billings, MT 59107-1177
(406) 245-4111, www.billingschamber.com

Laurel Chamber
108 E. Main, Laurel, MT 59044
(406) 628-8105, www.laurelmontana.org

Economic Development

Big Sky Economic Development Corporation
222 N. 32nd St., Suite 200, Billings, MT 59101,
(406) 256-6871, www.bigskyedc.org/

Montana Business Incubator
100 Poly Dr., Suite 150, Billings, MT 59101
(406) 657-2138, www.mtbiz.org/

Regional Development Office
Montana Department of Commerce
Billings, MT 59102, (406) 655-1696
E-mail: aljonesdo@bresnan.net

Newspapers

Billings Gazette
P.O. Box 36300, Billings, MT 59107-6300
(406) 657-1200 or (800) 543-2505
www.billingsgazette.com

The Billings Outpost
1833 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59102
(406) 248-1616, www.billingsnews.com

Yellowstone County News
748 Railroad Hwy, Huntley, MT 59037
(406) 348-2649, E-mail: ycnmont@nemontel.net

Laurel Outlook
415 E. Main, P.O. Box 278, Laurel, MT 59044
(406) 628-4412 or (800) 295-4412
www.laureloutlook.com

Job Service Workforce Center

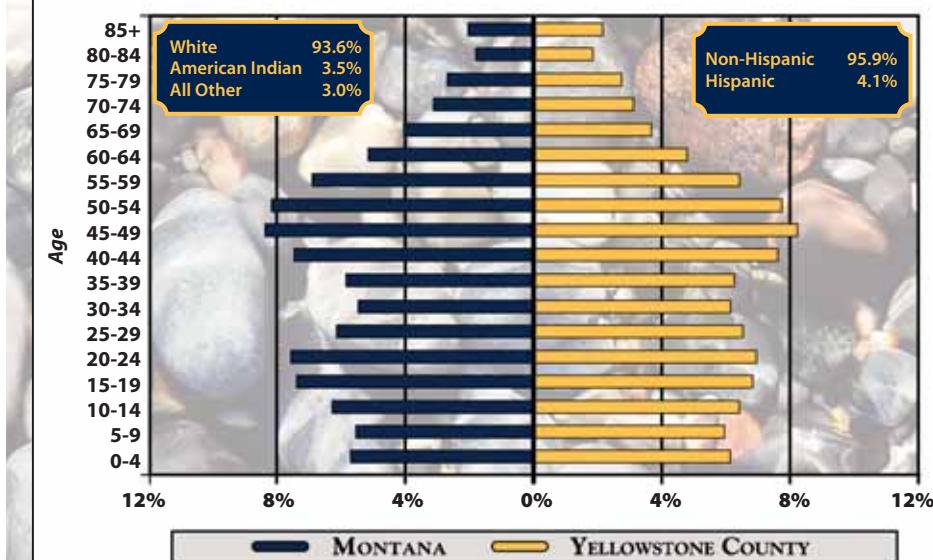
2121 Rosebud Dr., Stop B,
Billings, MT 59102-6274
(406) 652-3080, wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/billings/

Population for Yellowstone County & Related Areas

Geography	Total Population					
	Census	Estimates				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Montana	902,195	906,098	910,395	917,885	926,920	935,670
Yellowstone County	129,352	130,572	131,898	133,265	134,806	136,691
Billings	89,847	92,801	94,055	95,434	97,041	98,721
Broadview	150	150	150	150	149	150
Laurel	6,255	6,295	6,313	6,330	6,343	6,342
Balance of Yellowstone County	33,100	31,326	31,380	31,351	31,273	31,478

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates Program*

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Yellowstone County, 2005



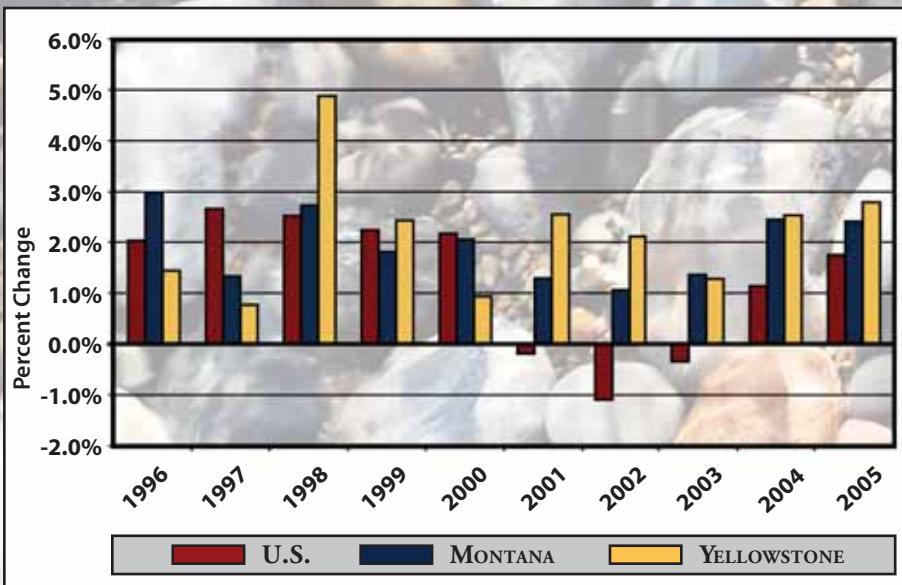
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Yellowstone County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	11.5%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	31.0%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	25.5%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.5%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	19.1%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	4.5%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	2.1%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*

Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005 U.S., Montana, and Yellowstone County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 20 Private Employers in Yellowstone County (Based on 1st Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Advanced Personnel Services	7	First Interstate Bank	8
Advantage Line	7	Food Services of America	6
Albertsons Food & Drug	7	Rocky Mountain College	7
Better Business Systems	9	St. John's Lutheran Home	7
Billings Gazette	7	St. Vincent Healthcare	9
Cenex	7	Sysco Food Services	7
Computer Claims Administration	6	United Parcel Service	6
ConocoPhillips	7	Wal-Mart	8
Deaconess Billings Clinic	9	Wells Fargo	8
ExxonMobil	7	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch	7

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Yellowstone County

Farms	
Farms: (number)	1,279
Land in farms (acres)	1,568,637
Average size of farms (acres)	1,226
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	1,042
1,000 acres or more	237
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	1,123
\$100,000 or more	156
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	1,165
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	114

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested	
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	127,980
Hogs and pigs	3,455
Sheep and lambs	4,588
Horses and ponies	4,102
Bison	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	(D)
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	1,212
Corn for silage or greenchop	13,176
Wheat for grain, All	69,211
Winter wheat for grain	50,264
Durum wheat for grain	(D)
Spring wheat for grain	(D)
Barley for grain	20,397
Oats for grain	439
Sunflower seed, All	0
Soybeans for beans	(D)
Hay, haylage, grass silage	50,116

Operator Demographics	
Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	643
Other	636
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	1,036
Not on farm operated	243
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	397
10 years or more	882
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	700
55 years and over	579
Average age of operators: (number)	54

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Yellowstone County

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	5,379	72,569	\$32,112
TOTAL PRIVATE	5,272	64,264	\$31,122
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	41	273	\$23,901
Crop production	9	46	\$22,498
Animal production	21	172	\$20,116
Agriculture & forestry support	12	55	\$36,950
MINING	47	362	\$62,403
Oil and gas extraction	17	113	\$86,407
Mining, except oil and gas	4	19	\$29,860
Support activities for mining	26	230	\$53,208
UTILITIES	15	352	\$63,861
CONSTRUCTION	682	4,460	\$37,512
Construction of buildings	210	1,031	\$34,848
Heavy and civil engineering construction	58	1,048	\$46,524
Specialty trade contractors	415	2,381	\$34,697
MANUFACTURING	190	3,493	\$45,238
Food manufacturing	29	619	\$32,033
Beverage and tobacco product mfg	4	119	\$35,034
Textile mills	1	*	*
Textile product mills	4	35	\$23,612
Apparel manufacturing	3	*	*
Leather and allied product manufacturing	2	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	8	108	\$25,864
Paper manufacturing	1	*	*
Printing and related support activities	19	308	\$26,286
Petroleum & coal products manufacturing	6	859	\$81,790
Chemical manufacturing	7	105	\$47,572
Plastics & rubber products manufacturing	2	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	13	171	\$35,279
Primary metal manufacturing	2	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	25	415	\$39,109
Machinery manufacturing	12	190	\$40,471
Computer and electronic product mfg	3	*	*
Transportation equipment manufacturing	5	*	*
Furniture and related product mfg	20	127	\$24,187
Miscellaneous manufacturing	27	241	\$32,930
WHOLESALE TRADE	440	5,096	\$41,745
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	259	3,149	\$41,679
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	118	1,725	\$41,479
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	63	223	\$44,748
RETAIL TRADE	682	9,571	\$23,132
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	124	1,591	\$35,896
Furniture and home furnishings stores	48	448	\$28,780
Electronics and appliance stores	38	305	\$21,360
Building material & garden supply stores	64	887	\$26,970
Food and beverage stores	41	847	\$19,573
Health and personal care stores	34	254	\$24,751
Gasoline stations	52	533	\$16,861
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	84	727	\$13,205
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	54	617	\$16,472
General merchandise stores	22	2,358	\$20,255
Miscellaneous store retailers	108	862	\$20,811
Nonstore retailers	14	142	\$25,692

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

* Data Not Disclosable

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	210	2,788	\$31,639
Air transportation	11	323	\$33,513
Truck transportation	122	1,237	\$35,778
Transit and ground passenger transport	10	286	\$18,107
Pipeline transportation	5	41	\$75,115
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	1	*	*
Support activities for transportation	40	479	\$29,884
Couriers and messengers	17	394	\$25,172
Warehousing and storage	4	27	\$24,355
INFORMATION	90	1,294	\$35,507
Publishing industries, except Internet	19	371	\$35,615
Motion picture, sound recording industry	11	123	\$20,223
Broadcasting, except Internet	12	289	\$37,745
Telecommunications	34	474	\$38,115
ISPs, search portals, & data processing	15	37	\$34,184
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	301	2,850	\$47,317
Credit intermediation & related activity	98	1,689	\$41,708
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	57	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	144	823	\$40,468
Funds, trusts, other financial vehicles	2	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	245	1,201	\$26,174
Real estate	191	596	\$26,007
Rental and leasing services	46	483	\$21,154
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible asset	8	122	\$46,909
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	545	4,098	\$41,921
Professional and technical services	545	4,098	\$41,921
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	19	164	\$52,157
Management of companies and enterprises	19	164	\$52,157
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	279	4,833	\$18,119
Administrative and support services	265	4,695	\$17,645
Waste management and remediation service	14	138	\$34,233
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	43	569	\$22,463
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	440	10,530	\$40,433
Ambulatory health care services	267	2,127	\$51,928
Hospitals	4	4,861	\$50,381
Nursing and residential care facilities	37	2,132	\$22,055
Social assistance	133	1,409	\$16,570
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	132	1,616	\$14,164
Performing arts and spectator sports	25	191	\$13,020
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	7	61	\$21,316
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	100	1,364	\$14,005
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	367	7,478	\$11,880
Accommodation	46	1,072	\$13,830
Food services and drinking places	321	6,405	\$11,554
OTHER SERVICES	504	3,230	\$21,731
Repair and maintenance	191	1,323	\$29,947
Personal and laundry services	92	634	\$17,578
Membership associations & organizations	169	1,186	\$15,371
Private households	52	88	\$13,790
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	106	8,305	\$39,775
Local Government	31	4,997	\$34,136
State Government	19	1,459	\$33,442
Federal Government	56	1,850	\$60,005

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance.
(Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)